

**Claims**

1. A device (2) for separating magnetic particles, comprising a plurality of substantially aligned magnets (3), characterised in that some of the magnets (3) are inversely oriented.
2. A separating device as defined in claim 1, in which about half of the magnets (3) are inversely oriented.
3. A separating device as defined in claim 2, in which substantially every second magnet (3) is inversely oriented.
4. A separating device as defined in any of the preceding claims, in which magnets (3) are disposed in several rows of several magnets.
5. A separating device as defined in any of the preceding claims, in which the magnets (5) are united to form one single piece (2).
6. A separating device as defined in any of the preceding claims, in which the magnets (3) are permanent magnets whose length/diameter ratio is at least about 2:1, such as at least about 5:1.
7. An apparatus (1) for separating magnetic particles, comprising a vertically movable separating device (2) including several substantially aligned magnets (3), characterised in that some of the magnets (3) are inversely oriented.
8. An apparatus as defined in claim 7, comprising a well-like casing (8) for insertion of each magnet (3).
9. An apparatus as defined in claim 8, in which the casings (8) are united to form one single piece (7).